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Message Text

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45
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01

SCI-06 EPA-04 DOTE-00 CEQ-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 /115 W
---------- 101662
O R 121634Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2346
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, NL
SUBJECT: CIVAIR- FUEL SHORTAGES

REF: STATE 221740

1. SHORTAGES OF AVIATION FUEL IN NETHERLANDS HAVE NO DISCERNIBLE EFFECT ON SHORTAGES AT POINTS IN US SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO APPRECIABLE EXPORT OF AVIATION FUEL FROM NETHERLANDS TO US.

2. SHORTAGES COULD CONCEIVABLY AFFECT US CARRIER FLIGHTS
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DEPARTING NETHERLANDS IN NEAR FUTURE AS PART OF TOTAL AVIATION

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PICTURE. MOEA IS THINKING IN GENERAL TERMS OF 10-20 PERCENT
REDUCTION NOW IN CONSUMPTION OF ALL REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
(AS WELL AS EXPORTS), BUT SPECIFIC AND FUTURE LEVELS OF
REDUCTION WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CRUDE SUPPLY PICTURE.
MOEA HAS NOT YET APPLIED SUPPLY CUTBACKS TO COMMERCIAL AVIATION
EXCEPT FOR REQUEST TO OIL COMPANIES TO REDUCE DELIVEREIS OF
REFINED PRODUCTS IN GENERAL BY 15 PERCENT. PARLIAMENTARY ACTION
IS UNDER WAY TO PROVIDE RATIONING POWERS. FOR TIME BEING AIRLINES
ARE OPERATING FLIGHTS AS USUAL, ALTHOUGH ON INTRA-EUROPEAN
FLIGHTS POOLED CARRIERS ARE PREPARED TO REDUCE FLIGHTS BILATERALLY
IF AND WHEN FUEL SHORTAGES BECOME ACUTE (E.G. KLM AND BEA WOULD
REDUCE AMSTERDAM-LONDON FLIGHTS). TRANSATLANTIC CARRIERS ARE
CONSIDERING WHAT TO DO WHEN FUEL SUPPLY BECOMES CRITICAL. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT OIL COMPANIES HERE WILL SOON JOINTLY RECOMMEND
TO GON THAT AIRLINES BE INSTRUCTED TO REFUEL WHERE FEASIBLE
IN COUNTRIES BEING GIVEN PREFERRRED TREATMENT BY OAPEC, E.G. UK,
FRANCE AND SPAIN.

3. SINCE CRUDE SUPPLY TO NETHERLANDS IS EMBARGOED BY ARAB
COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE TWO-THIRDS OF CRUDE CONSUMED IN NETHERLANDS,
SUPPLY OF AVIATION FUEL MAY BE CUT BACK MUCH MORE THAN 10-20
PERCENT REUDCTION FORESEEN FOR PRESENT.

4. COMMENT: AS MIDDLE DISTILLATES, JET FUELS CUT DIRECTLY INTO
HOME HEATING OIL AVAILABILITIES. IF HOLLAND SHOULD REACH POINT
OF BEING FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THESE ALTERNATIVES AIRLINES
WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME OUT SECOND BEST. SEEN FROM HERE IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT TIME HAS COME FOR SEARCHING REAPPRAISAL OF
TRANSATLANTIC AIR SCHEDULE STRUCTURE WHICH ENTAILS
FREQUENTLY UNECONOMIC CAPACITY SURPLUS. FUEL SHORTAGE,
EVEN IF IT PROVES SHORT-LIVED, PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
FOR MUTUAL AND BALANCED CAPACITY CUTS (POSSIBLY LEADING TO
POOLED SHUTTLE SERVICE) WHICH WOULD BENEFIT TRAVLERS,
AIRLINES, OIL-USERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS ALIKE.
GOULD

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